

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–32
TEXT OF H.R. 1423, THE FORCED ARBITRATION
INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT OR FAIR ACT

[Showing the text of H.R. 1423, as ordered reported by the
Committee on the Judiciary.]

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Forced Arbitration In-
3 justice Repeal Act” or the “FAIR Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

5 The purposes of this Act are to—

6 (1) prohibit predispute arbitration agreements
7 that force arbitration of future employment, con-
8 sumer, antitrust, or civil rights disputes, and

9 (2) prohibit agreements and practices that
10 interfere with the right of individuals, workers, and
11 small businesses to participate in a joint, class, or
12 collective action related to an employment, con-
13 sumer, antitrust, or civil rights dispute.

14 **SEC. 3. ARBITRATION OF EMPLOYMENT, CONSUMER, ANTI-**
15 **TRUST, AND CIVIL RIGHTS DISPUTES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 9 of the United States Code
17 is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“CHAPTER 4—ARBITRATION OF EMPLOY-**
2 **MENT, CONSUMER, ANTITRUST, AND**
3 **CIVIL RIGHTS DISPUTES**

“401. Definitions.

“402. No validity or enforceability.

4 **“§ 401. Definitions**

5 “In this chapter—

6 “(1) the term ‘antitrust dispute’ means a dis-
7 pute—

8 “(A) arising from an alleged violation of
9 the antitrust laws (as defined in subsection (a)
10 of the first section of the Clayton Act) or State
11 antitrust laws; and

12 “(B) in which the plaintiffs seek certifi-
13 cation as a class under rule 23 of the Federal
14 Rules of Civil Procedure or a comparable rule
15 or provision of State law;

16 “(2) the term ‘civil rights dispute’ means a dis-
17 pute—

18 “(A) arising from an alleged violation of—

19 “(i) the Constitution of the United
20 States or the constitution of a State;

21 “(ii) any Federal, State, or local law
22 that prohibits discrimination on the basis
23 of race, sex, age, gender identity, sexual
24 orientation, disability, religion, national or-

1 igin, or any legally protected status in edu-
2 cation, employment, credit, housing, public
3 accommodations and facilities, voting, vet-
4 erans or servicemembers, health care, or a
5 program funded or conducted by the Fed-
6 eral Government or State government, in-
7 cluding any law referred to or described in
8 section 62(e) of the Internal Revenue Code
9 of 1986, including parts of such law not
10 explicitly referenced in such section but
11 that relate to protecting individuals on any
12 such basis; and

13 “(B) in which at least 1 party alleging a
14 violation described in subparagraph (A) is one
15 or more individuals (or their authorized rep-
16 resentative), including one or more individuals
17 seeking certification as a class under rule 23 of
18 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or a com-
19 parable rule or provision of State law;

20 “(3) the term ‘consumer dispute’ means a dis-
21 pute between—

22 “(A) one or more individuals who seek or
23 acquire real or personal property, services (in-
24 cluding services related to digital technology),
25 securities or other investments, money, or credit

1 for personal, family, or household purposes in-
2 cluding an individual or individuals who seek
3 certification as a class under rule 23 of the
4 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or a com-
5 parable rule or provision of State law; and

6 “(B)(i) the seller or provider of such prop-
7 erty, services, securities or other investments,
8 money, or credit; or

9 “(ii) a third party involved in the selling,
10 providing of, payment for, receipt or use of in-
11 formation about, or other relationship to any
12 such property, services, securities or other in-
13 vestments, money, or credit;

14 “(4) the term ‘employment dispute’ means a
15 dispute between one or more individuals (or their
16 authorized representative) and a person arising out
17 of or related to the work relationship or prospective
18 work relationship between them, including a dispute
19 regarding the terms of or payment for, advertising
20 of, recruiting for, referring of, arranging for, or dis-
21 cipline or discharge in connection with, such work,
22 regardless of whether the individual is or would be
23 classified as an employee or an independent con-
24 tractor with respect to such work, and including a
25 dispute arising under any law referred to or de-

1 scribed in section 62(e) of the Internal Revenue
2 Code of 1986, including parts of such law not explic-
3 itly referenced in such section but that relate to pro-
4 tecting individuals on any such basis, and including
5 a dispute in which an individual or individuals seek
6 certification as a class under rule 23 of the Federal
7 Rules of Civil Procedure or as a collective action
8 under section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards
9 Act, or a comparable rule or provision of State law;

10 “(5) the term ‘predispute arbitration agree-
11 ment’ means an agreement to arbitrate a dispute
12 that has not yet arisen at the time of the making
13 of the agreement; and

14 “(6) the term ‘predispute joint-action waiver’
15 means an agreement, whether or not part of a
16 predispute arbitration agreement, that would pro-
17 hibit, or waive the right of, one of the parties to the
18 agreement to participate in a joint, class, or collec-
19 tive action in a judicial, arbitral, administrative, or
20 other forum, concerning a dispute that has not yet
21 arisen at the time of the making of the agreement.

22 **“§ 402. No validity or enforceability**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
24 vision of this title, no predispute arbitration agreement or
25 predispute joint-action waiver shall be valid or enforceable

1 with respect to an employment dispute, consumer dispute,
2 antitrust dispute, or civil rights dispute.

3 “(b) APPLICABILITY.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An issue as to whether this
5 chapter applies with respect to a dispute shall be de-
6 termined under Federal law. The applicability of this
7 chapter to an agreement to arbitrate and the validity
8 and enforceability of an agreement to which this
9 chapter applies shall be determined by a court, rath-
10 er than an arbitrator, irrespective of whether the
11 party resisting arbitration challenges the arbitration
12 agreement specifically or in conjunction with other
13 terms of the contract containing such agreement,
14 and irrespective of whether the agreement purports
15 to delegate such determinations to an arbitrator.

16 “(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—
17 Nothing in this chapter shall apply to any arbitra-
18 tion provision in a contract between an employer and
19 a labor organization or between labor organizations,
20 except that no such arbitration provision shall have
21 the effect of waiving the right of a worker to seek
22 judicial enforcement of a right arising under a provi-
23 sion of the Constitution of the United States, a
24 State constitution, or a Federal or State statute, or
25 public policy arising therefrom.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title 9 of the United States
3 Code is amended—

4 (A) in section 1 by striking “of seamen,”
5 and all that follows through “interstate com-
6 merce,” and inserting in its place “of individ-
7 uals, regardless of whether such individuals are
8 designated as employees or independent con-
9 tractors for other purposes”,

10 (B) in section 2 by inserting “or as other-
11 wise provided in chapter 4” before the period at
12 the end,

13 (C) in section 208—

14 (i) in the section heading by striking
15 “**CHAPTER 1; RESIDUAL APPLICA-**
16 **TION**” and inserting “**APPLICATION**”,
17 and

18 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing: “This chapter applies to the extent
20 that this chapter is not in conflict with
21 chapter 4.”, and

22 (D) in section 307—

23 (i) in the section heading by striking
24 “**CHAPTER 1; RESIDUAL APPLICA-**

1 **TION**” and inserting “**APPLICATION**”,
2 and

3 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing: “This chapter applies to the extent
5 that this chapter is not in conflict with
6 chapter 4.”.

7 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—

8 (A) CHAPTER 2.—The table of sections of
9 chapter 2 of title 9, United States Code, is
10 amended by striking the item relating to section
11 208 and inserting the following:

“208. Application.”.

12 (B) CHAPTER 3.—The table of sections of
13 chapter 3 of title 9, United States Code, is
14 amended by striking the item relating to section
15 307 and inserting the following:

“307. Application.”.

16 (3) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chap-
17 ters of title 9, United States Code, is amended by
18 adding at the end the following:

“4. Arbitration of employment, consumer, antitrust, and civil rights disputes”.

19 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

20 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act,
21 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and

- 1 shall apply with respect to any dispute or claim that arises
- 2 or accrues on or after such date.

